

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning Community

Volume 1, Issue 7

August 1998

In This Issue

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR.....	1
CIVIL WORKS DIGITAL PROJECT NOTEBOOK	1
CAP WEB SITE ON THE WAY	2
FEMA'S PROJECT IMPACT - BUILDING DISASTER RESISTANT COMMUNITIES	2
CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN.....	3
COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP TO RECEIVE "HAMMER AWARD"	3
RIPARIAN ZONE ECOLOGY, RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT	4
NEWS ITEMS	4
DEADLINE.....	4

A Word From The Editor

Harry Kitch – CECW-PC

There still has been no announcement of the permanent Chief of Planning at HQUSACE. As we said earlier, Carl Enson, the new Chief of Engineering at HQUSACE, will be the acting Chief of Planning. Carl is in the process of moving to the Washington area this month and we should have some words from him next month.

Remember that you can find this issue and past issues at:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwpnews.htm> ❖

Civil Works Digital Project Notebook

Moody K. Miles - CECW-EP

The Civil Works Digital Project Notebook (DPN) is now on the Web at <http://crunch.tec.army.mil> and can also be reached by going through the HQUSACE home page and drilling down thru Civil Works & Engineering Division & the National Inventory of Dams (so use the above direct connect). Be sure to download the web viewer plug-in which is also at this site.

This sort of information can be very valuable to all of us but only if the data are current and complete. The web site also has information on the status of each districts' progress in supplying and updating the information. We would encourage everyone to do what they can to make this an even more valuable tool. ❖

Cap Web Site On The Way

Russ Rangos - CECW-PM

We are beginning work to create a web site specifically addressing the Continuing Authorities Program. We want it to be helpful and informative not only to Corps personnel, but also to current and prospective sponsors. At the present time, we are looking to provide general information on the 9 CAP authorities, the facility for users to link to Corps CAP managers nationwide, a vehicle for information sharing about new techniques and lessons learned, and suggestions from anyone on what else would be helpful.

We are just starting out on this effort, so please be patient, and don't hesitate to call or e-mail your suggestions. ❖

FEMA'S PROJECT IMPACT - Building Disaster Resistant Communities

Ken Zwickl – CECW-PF

The goal of FEMA 's Project Impact is to help communities protect themselves from the devastating effects of natural disasters by taking actions that dramatically reduce disruption and loss. This nationwide initiative, Project Impact, operates on a common-sense damage-reduction approach, basing its work and planning on three simple principles: preventive actions must be decided at the local level; private sector participation is vital; and long-term efforts and investments in prevention measures are essential.

In early Fiscal Year 1998, FEMA partnered with seven pilot communities across the country and was encouraged by the benefits seen and the determined commitment that is flourishing at the local level. This has been a unique experiment: FEMA has offered expertise and technical assistance from the national and regional level and included other federal agencies, including the

Corps of Engineers, and states in the equation. This summer, FEMA expanded the program by inviting at least one disaster resistant community in each of the 50 states to participate in Project Impact, as well as recruiting 500 businesses to be Project Impact partners.

FEMA uses a memorandum of understanding as the vehicle for encouraging interaction between the various stakeholders in disaster loss reduction at the community level. These stakeholders include state and local governments, private industry, and federal agencies. The Corps of Engineers District offices have been a signatory on MOU's for several of the pilot communities. In communities where the Corps has ongoing flood damage reduction or environmental restoration studies, these studies have benefited from the increased participation by the local sponsors. In addition, the increased visibility afforded to the Corps by their participation in this effort has led to requests from these communities for technical assistance and planning guidance using the Corps Flood Plain Management Services and Planning Assistance to States programs. Limited funding for the Corps participation in coordination meetings and community workshops is available through the FPMS program.

All Districts with Project Impact communities within their boundaries are encouraged to contact the appropriate FEMA Regional office to express interest in participating in these meetings and workshops. Additional information on Project Impact, including the latest list of communities, can be found at the FEMA website, <http://www.fema.gov/impact/>. ❖

CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN

Beverley Getzen - CECW-PD

The implementation of various CWAP actions continues. Many states and tribes have submitted their Unified Watershed Assessments preparing for the FY 99 funding cycle from EPA. This identification of high priority watersheds will lead to the development of watershed restoration strategies next FY. Meanwhile, the interagency committee on GPRA goals is collecting and assembling the various Federal agencies' natural resources restoration goals related to clean water and watershed restoration. This compilation will soon be available for release. Another interagency committee is developing the Unified Federal Policy for management of all Federal lands and resources to meet watershed and clean water goals. These and other activities are regularly posted on the CWAP web page accessed either from the EPA or NRCS homepages. Budget updates are included there for your information.

The Corps' funding request for Challenge XXI has been cut while the basic authority sought in WRDA '98 seems to be on track. EPA's request for augmented funds for 319 and 106 activities is faring much better so far; thus, the likelihood of funds in FY 99 for restoration strategy development is good. Check into the web sites to get the latest news on CWAP implementation and updated budget information. The address is <http://www.epa.gov/cleanwater/>



Coastal America Partnership To Receive "Hammer Award"

Norm Edwards - CECW-PD

Since 1992, Coastal America's regional teams have initiated over 250 restoration and protection projects in 26 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia in collaboration with over 300

non-federal organizations. The Federal Partners, working in partnership with state, local, and non-governmental groups, are restoring wetlands, opening stream access to historic fish spawning grounds and protecting habitat for endangered species of fish, birds and mammals while facilitating infrastructure projects necessary for the economy of the nation.

The award ceremony is scheduled for 4:00 p.m., September 17, 1998 at the White House complex. Ms. Katie McGinty, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality will formally present the award to the Partnership. Mr. Robert Perciasepe, Chair, Coastal America and Dr. James Baker, Former Chair, Coastal America will speak on behalf of the Partnership. All partner agencies will receive a Hammer Award Plaque that will be presented to the respective Principal or their representative at the ceremony. The Partners are the Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, the ASA (CW), is the Principal for the Army.

The Corps has played a prominent role in the success of this Partnership at all levels from the very beginning. At the district level the Corps has been the lead Federal agency for 70 of the current total of 252 Coastal America projects. At the regional level, the Corps currently provides either the Chair or Co-Chair for six of the eight active Regional Implementation Teams. At the national level the Corps has provided the Partnership's Deputy Director for all but one year of its seven-year existence.

We have a lot to be proud of. ❖

RIPARIAN ZONE ECOLOGY, RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

Beverley Getzen - CECW-PD

The first session of this newly developed training course was recently presented at WES and was very well received by the students. The course was designed to meet the increasing need for addressing riparian improvements and restorations. The course covers a full range of topics related to examination of the riparian system, determination of functional or dysfunctional characteristics, development of management strategies and applicable "soft" engineering approaches to achieving improvements in habitat quality and quantity. There will be two sessions offered next FY. The first will be in Augusta, GA, from 19-23 April 1999 and the second session will be offered in Fresno, CA, from 14-18 June 1999. Planners, regulatory staff, designers and project operators and natural resources managers will all find this course provides useful and directly applicable tools and techniques for improving riparian corridors and related resources. This is a PROSPECT course and is listed in the "Purple" Book on page 2-114. ❖

NEWS ITEMS

...The Corps is participating in a multi-agency work group that is preparing a re-write of the Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management, possibly to be issued in the Fall of 1998.

...The Corps is assisting FEMA in re-vamping its flood insurance mapping process. FEMA may be asking Congress for about \$900 million over the next 7 years to bring all existing flood maps up-to-date.

... The next meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board will take place on Thursday,

November 5th in New Orleans, LA. Prior to the meeting, the Board will tour the Inner Harbor Canal and IHNC Lock, and also tour the Mississippi River Revetment Unit. This will be the 33rd meeting of the Board and its last meeting in 1998.

... The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board is set for 21-23 October at the Ramada Old Town in Alexandria, VA. The announcements have been sent to districts and MSC's with the registration form. Don't forget to make your hotel reservations. The meeting is a follow-on to the spring meeting in St. Paul. Again the discussions and presentations will focus on the watershed perspective, but this time moving beyond planning issues to discuss the implications of adopting the watershed perspective in all our civil works responsibilities. Opportunities in project operations, natural resources management, project design and implementation, and regulatory actions will be discussed. Those wishing to make presentations can contact Beverley Getzen at (202) 761-1980. The members of the EAB are looking forward to further interactions with Corps staff and stakeholders on this important subject, which the Chief of Engineers has stated is high on his agenda for civil works.



DEADLINE

The deadline for material for the September issue is 21 September 1998. ❖

Planning Ahead, is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 25-30. It is published by the Planning Division, Directorate of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20314-1000, TEL 202-761-1969 or FAX 202-761-1972 or e-mail Harry.E.Kitch@usace.army.mil.